

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Norman Rice

Filed: herewith

For: METHOD FOR A RELIABILITY ASSESSMENT, FAILURE PREDICTION AND
OPERATING CONDITION OF ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
Under 37 CFR § 1.97(b)

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months after the filing date of this application or before the mailing of an Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last, and therefore is considered timely under 37 CFR §1.97(b).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR §1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13, at 25.

This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR §1.56(c).

A list of the thirty-four (34) U.S. patents and two (2) foreign patents cited by the applicant are enclosed on one sheet of Form PTO/SB/08A which is attached and made a part hereof. Copies of cited U.S. references are not enclosed. Copies of foreign references are not enclosed, but were previously submitted or cited by the Examiner in co-pending U.S. patent application serial no. 09/974,355, now U.S. Patent No. 6,691,557 from which the present application claims benefit under 35 USC §120.

This Information Disclosure Statement is based on information contained in the undersigned attorney file as of the date of this statement and is inclusive of the best information known to the undersigned at that date.

The Examiner is kindly requested to consider the Information Disclosure Statement in addition to any references identified by the Examiner as a result of his independent search and examination.

Respectfully submitted,

HAHN LOESER & PARKS LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael H. Minns", written in a cursive style.

Michael H. Minns
Registration 31,985

Twin Oaks Estate
1225 West Market Street
Akron, OH 44313-7188
(330) 864-5550

Attorney Docket: 115243.00005

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p>			Complete if Known		
			Application Number		
			Filing Date		
			First Named Inventor		
			Art Unit		
			Examiner Name		
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	
				115243.00005	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 3619072	11/09/1971	O'Hara et al.	
		US- 4402211	09/06/1983	Sugawara et al.	
		US- 4502320	03/05/1985	Sakai et al.	
		US- 4506960	03/26/1985	Waggoner et al.	
		US- 4625923	12/02/1986	Fishgal, Semyon	
		US- 4925627	05/15/1990	Johnson, Gerald K.	
		US- 4961845	10/09/1990	Dawson et al.	
		US- 5071527	12/10/1991	Kauffman	
		US- 5194910	03/16/1993	Kirkpatrick et al.	
		US- 5210704	05/11/1993	Husseiny	
		US- 5271263	12/21/1993	Gibeault	
		US- 5313824	05/24/1994	Herguth et al.	
		US- 5377531	01/03/1995	Gomm, Nelson R.	
		US- 5506501	04/09/1996	Fogel et al.	
		US- 5508624	04/16/1996	Chon et al.	
		US- 5517427	05/14/1996	Joyce	
		US- 5531129	07/02/1996	Thornton et al.	
		US- 5572320	11/05/1996	Reintjes et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		WO	10/20323	03/2001	Bensch et al.	
		JP	0104859-A	02/1989	none	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p>			Complete if Known		
			Application Number		
			Filing Date		
			First Named Inventor		
			Art Unit		
			Examiner Name		
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	
				115243.00005	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5586161	12/17/1996	Russell et al.	
		US- 5604441	02/18/1997	Freese, V et al.	
		US- 5614830	03/25/1997	Dickert et al.	
		US- 5659126	08/19/1997	Farber	
		US- 5674401	10/07/1997	Dickert et al.	
		US- 5691706	11/25/1997	Butler et al.	
		US- 5739916	04/14/1998	Englehaupt	
		US- 5754055	05/19/1998	McAdoo et al.	
		US- 5811664	09/22/1998	Whittington et al.	
		US- 5824889	10/20/1998	Park et al.	
		US- 5834642	11/10/1998	Decain et al.	
		US- 5852404	12/22/1998	Amini	
		US- 5817928	10/06/1998	Garvey, III et al.	
		US- 5889683	03/30/1999	Ismail et al.	
		US- 5936715	08/10/1999	Shapanus et al.	
		US- 6085576	07/11/2000	Sunshine et al.	
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.